

LTC16D138

Title: Proposed New Institutional Partnership – South Essex College
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Issue

A proposed new institutional partnership to validate degrees at South Essex College.

LTC is asked to:

a) approve in principle that South Essex College be considered as a new institutional partner, subject to the standard due diligence process and an Institutional Approval event.

Resource Implications

Cost and time involved in supporting the approval process. Ongoing costs (mainly fixed costs: staff time) in managing and monitoring the partnership and supporting academic and support staff at South Essex College. The arrangement in steady state will bring a significant amount of income into UEA and has the potential to grow to considerably if successful.

Risk Implications

Risks will be identified as part of the Institutional Approval process.

Equality and Diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications.

Timing of decisions

The proposal is for students to be admitted to UEA validated programmes from September 2018. Subject to LTC approval in principle an Institutional Approval event will be held on 20 July 2017. The recommendations from the Panel will then be considered by LTC in October 2017, and if supported by LTC, Senate will be asked to ratify the approval in November 2016.

The course validation process will take place separately, with validation events that will take place in the early part of academic year 2017/18.

Further Information

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Discussion

South Essex College is a large general further education (FE) college with an annual turnover of approximately £51 million. South Essex College was formed in 2010 by the merger of two Colleges¹ and has become established as the main provider of college-based vocational education in the south Essex region. The College offers a curriculum in all subject sector areas (SSAs) and in most vocational areas spread across three main campuses in Basildon, Southend and Thurrock. The College delivers training to over 15,000 full-time equivalent students (with approximately 800 higher education students).

The College plays an important role in meeting the needs of the communities it serves by providing a range of HE programmes, some of which are validated by world-class validating partners. The College has a long established relationship with the University of Essex and Pearson, offering BTEC HNDs. This reflects in part the College's commitment to offering a good student academic experience. The sustained investment in premises re-enforces this commitment.

Following the appointment of a new Principal in August 2012, the development of the College's HE provision has remained a key strategic priority. The College gained directly funded HEFCE numbers in 2013. Since merger the College has sought to review its curriculum offer and develop appropriate provision in each of the communities it serves. This has led to the termination of partnerships with UEL and ARU inherited on merger. A new partnership was agreed with UAL in 2014-2015 with the development of a new degree in Costume Construction developed in conjunction with the Royal Opera House.

Southend based Higher Education provision (which represents the majority of the HE provision) is spread across the College's main Luker Road campus and The Forum (3rd Floor) (in an adjacent building). The Forum is a purpose built centre with seven classroom spaces, open study centres with networked IT, a student services support centre and provides a combined council and college library collection (on the ground floor and second floor).

UEA hosted an informal visit from representatives of South Essex College, including the Principal, on 22 May 2017 to meet with key UEA staff including the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), the Director of Student and Academic Services and the Academic Director of Taught Programmes.

It is proposed that the partnership will consist of the following programmes.

Degree Title	Predicted Student Numbers
FdA Counselling	36
BA (Hons) Counselling Top-Up	10
BSc (Hons) Criminology & Forensic Investigation	66
BA (Hons) Early Years	83
BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology	22
BA (Hons) Special Education	25
BSc (Hons) Sports & FdSc Personal Fitness	52

¹ Thurrock and Basildon College and South East Essex College